

In re Application of  
Lee and Esquela  
Application No.: 09/361,655  
Filed: July 27, 1999  
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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: JHU1220-4

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A. AMENDMENTS

A. In the Specification

Please amend the Title to read as follows:

METHODS OF DETECTING LIVER CELLS EXPRESSING GROWTH  
DIFFERENTIATION FACTOR-12 (Twice amended)

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B. In the Claims

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

F1  
15. (Four times amended) A method of detecting a liver cell sample, comprising  
contacting an antibody that specifically binds to growth differentiation factor-12  
(GDF-12) polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:12 with  
a tissue specimen from a subject under conditions suitable for formation of a complex  
comprising the antibody and GDF-12; and  
identifying the formation of the complex in the specimen, thereby detecting a liver  
cell sample.

F2  
18. (Twice amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the antibody further comprises a  
detectable label.

F3  
21. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the antibody further comprises a  
detectable label.

54 44. (Amended) A method of detecting expression of growth differentiation factor-12 (GDF-12) in the liver of a subject, comprising  
contacting an antibody that specifically binds to GDF-12 polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:12 with a specimen from the subject; and  
detecting specific binding of the antibody to GDF-12, thereby detecting GDF-12 expression in the liver of the subject.

Please add the following new claims:

55 --45. The method of claim 44, wherein the antibody further comprises a detectable label.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein the detectable label is selected from the group consisting of a radioisotope, a fluorescent compound, a bioluminescent compound and chemiluminescent compound.--